VRS Scheme in Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank

727. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canara and Syndicate banks are coming out with fresh proposals for VRS to its employees with a pay-off and pension scheme;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) what is the estimated outflow on account of this VRS at both these banks; and

(d) how many employees are likely to be given VRS under these fresh proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Outstanding EPF against IFCI

728. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Employees' Provident Fund lying outstanding against IFCI till date;

(b) the budget provided for the restructuring of IFCI during the fiscal year 2003-04;

(c) whether EPF organization has sought the intervention of the Ministry for payment of dues with interest by the IFCI; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Ministry of Finance and the time by which the defaulted money would be returned by IFCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The amount of Employees' Provident Fund lying outstanding against IFCI as on 30.11.2003 was Rs. 3999.18 crore which includes Rs. 1020.38 crore from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1573.00 crore (grant) has been provided in the Budget for 2003-04 for meeting certain specified liabilities of IFCI.

(c) The Minister of Labour wrote to the Minister of Finance in January, 2003 to advise the concerned officials to release the outstanding dues and other liabilities to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(d) The Government in consultation with the stakeholders of IFCI, formulated a package for restructuring of the liabilities of IFCI in December, 2002. Since then, IFCI have paid interest of Rs. 191.62 crore and principal of Rs. 7.19 crore to EPFO. As reported by IFCI, in August, 2003 EPFO had approved restructuring of its outstanding investments at 10% per annum payable after 10 years. However, IFCI has requested EPFO for reconsidering their approval at 9% per annum.

Waiver of interest on crop loans

729. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government for waiver of interest on crop loan advanced during Kharif Season 2002 as drought relief measure in view of prevailing drought situation in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Chief Minister of Karnataka has written to the Prime Minister for the purpose; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Credibility of Co-operative Banks

730. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that credibility of Co-operative Banks including rural and urban banks have eroded severely during the past few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;